



NEWS RELEASE

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Kernan: Four more Central Indiana companies using Indiana@Work for skills assessments and profiles

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that Indiana@Work, the state's latest workforce development initiative, has committed more than \$40,000 to four more Central Indiana companies.

Offered through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the \$40,729 commitment from Indiana@Work is providing 243 skills assessments and 17 job profiles to Marion County's **Applied Composites Engineering, OMC Precision Products** and **Pearson Education** in Marion and Boone counties.

"Like the nearly 600 other companies to sign on to Indiana@Work, these businesses understand the importance of matching qualified workers to the right job to remain competitive in today's global marketplace," Kernan said. "By providing services to help each of them find the right job applicants, Indiana@Work will ensure that new hires can hit the ground running and contribute to each company's growth. We are delighted to partner with these companies and wish them success in their future endeavors."

With \$8,972 from Indiana@Work, Marion County's **Applied Composites Engineering** will assess up to 45 people in order to fill openings created through attrition. In addition, the company's laminator, office administrator, computer aided design engineer and computer numerical control operator positions will be profiled. Founded in 1982, Applied Composites Engineering designs and manufactures parts and components from advanced composites for the aviation, automotive, gauging design and manufacturing, industrial, medical, motor sport and military markets. This growing Indianapolis-based company currently employs more than 40 people.

"The job profiles take the guesswork out of identifying the skills needed to do the job while the skills assessments assist us in finding people with those specific skills," said Leigh Sargeant, the company's president. "Consequently, our new hires fit right into their job almost immediately and our productivity remains high as a result."

OMC Precision Products will use \$7,252 from Indiana@Work to profile three positions, which include machine operator, shift supervisor and quality engineer. The company also will assess up to 58 people as it looks to expand its Indianapolis location. OMC Precision Products is a contract manufacturer for the orthopedic industry. The company employs 31 people who primarily develop and manufacture titanium and stainless steel spinal implants for major medical companies.

"With any growing business, finding people with the skills needed to do the job right can be difficult," said Debi Dwenger, OMC's human resources manager. "Because we are able to apply for training grants through Indiana@Work, we can take a chance on people that may not have all the

skills required for the job. We can address this skill gap through training all the while increasing the confidence of our employees by giving them the tools they need to succeed.”

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With a \$12,992 commitment from Indiana@Work, **Pearson Education's** Boone County location will profile five occupational categories and assess up to 70 employees. The profiled jobs include team leader, clerk, assemble line leader, customer service representative and returns processor. Employing 450 people, the Lebanon facility serves as a distribution hub for the company's products as well as a customer service center.

Pearson's Marion County facility will use \$11,512 to assess the skills of up to 70 employees and profile five occupational categories, including equipment operator, inventory control, returns processor and two material handler positions. The nearly 200 employees at the Indianapolis location assist in distributing Pearson's educational materials nationwide.

Educating 100 million people worldwide, Pearson Education is the global leader in educational publishing. With brands such as Pearson Prentice Hall, Pearson Scott Foresman, Pearson Learning Group, LessonLab and many others, Pearson Education provides quality content, assessment tools and educational services in all available media, spanning the learning curve from birth through college and beyond. Pearson Education is part of Pearson, the international media company, whose businesses also include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to more than 26,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested nearly 600 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys® skills assessments, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job, is the centerpiece of Indiana@Work. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs, and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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